

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00233 151736Z

41

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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R 151508Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5865

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 233

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, UNSC

SUBJ: ASAD'S UNHAPPINESS OVER PROSPECTS FOR SC RESOLUTION

REF: STATE 9807, DAMASCUS 186

1. MET WITH BUSINESSMAN SOURCE JANUARY 15 AND DISCUSSED QUESTION ALONG LINES PARA 5 DAMASCUS 186 AND ADDITIONAL POINTS YOU FURNISHED STATE 9807.

2. SOURCE HOPES SEE ASAD IN NEXT TWO DAYS AND WILL ADVISE REACTION SOONEST THEREAFTER. HE VOLUNTEERED, WITHOUT MY HAVING TO MAKE POINT, THAT HE INTENDS DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION TO USG. HE BELIEVES PRESIDENT WILL BE MORE RECEPTIVE TO CONCEPT IF IT COMES AS PERSONAL IDEA OF OLD FRIEND.

3. SOURCE ADDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT PRESIDENT IS, AMONG OTHER ACTIONS, CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF SIMPLY SUSPENDING DEBATE AND CALLING ON SYG TO ASSUME SPECIAL "WATCHING BRIEF" FOR PERIOD OF SEVERAL MONTHS. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW, OF COURSE, WHAT PRESIDENT'S EVENTUAL DECISION WOULD BE, BUT HE WAS CONVINCED ASAD WISHED TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH US.

MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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